

# 2022 State of the State

## Censorship in South Carolina's School Libraries

The South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL) is alarmed by the wave of censorship spreading across our state that threatens intellectual freedom and the right to read. SCASL documented cases in 2022 and compiled this report in order to educate others about this dangerous trend. Even as book bans have escalated, legislators continue to introduce bills that would facilitate censorship. It is our goal to bring attention to this problem so that we can work together to stop censorship and protect the First Amendment rights of all South Carolinians.

### KEY STATS



**307**  
CHALLENGES

**144**  
TITLES

**105**  
AUTHORS

### MOST CHALLENGED

#### Titles:

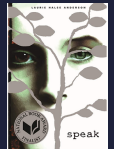
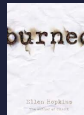
*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky (7)

*Stamped* by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi (All versions - 6)

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson (All versions - 5)

#### Author:

Ellen Hopkins (35)



**2012**

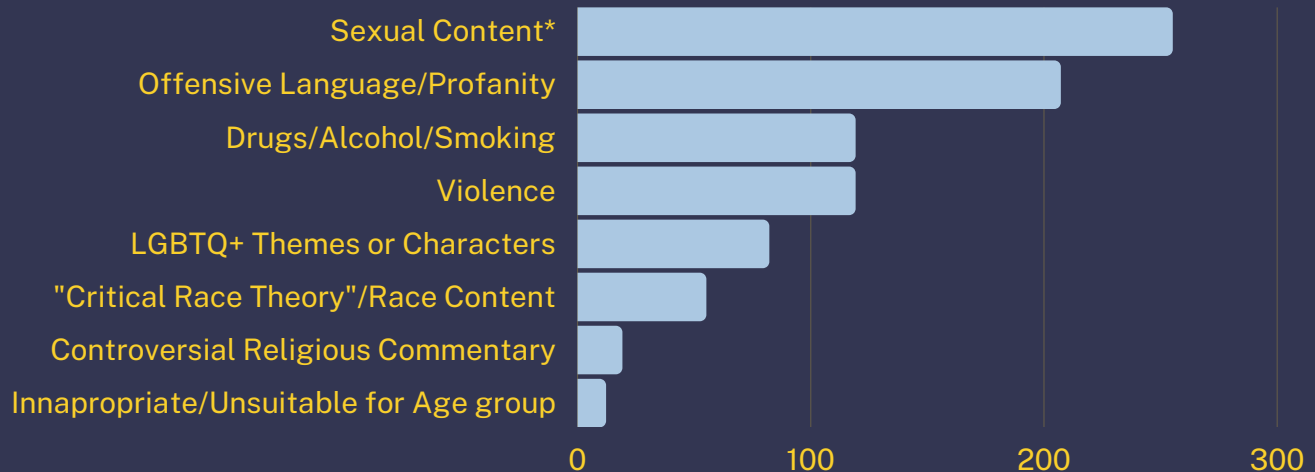
AVERAGE PUBLICATION  
YEAR OF CHALLENGED  
BOOKS



**55%**

55% of challenged titles include main or major characters of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, or members of other marginalized groups.

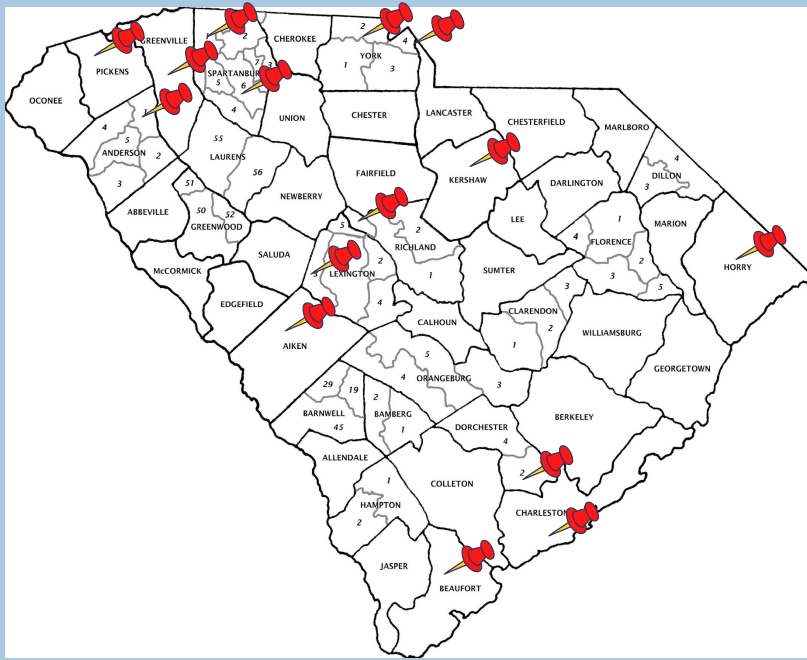
### REASONS FOR CHALLENGES



The vast majority of titles were challenged for more than one reason.

\* Sexual content may refer to "some level of description of sexual experiences of teenagers, stories about teen pregnancy, sexual assault, and abortion as well as informational books about puberty, sex, or relationships" (PEN America, 2022).

## DISTRICTS WITH CHALLENGES

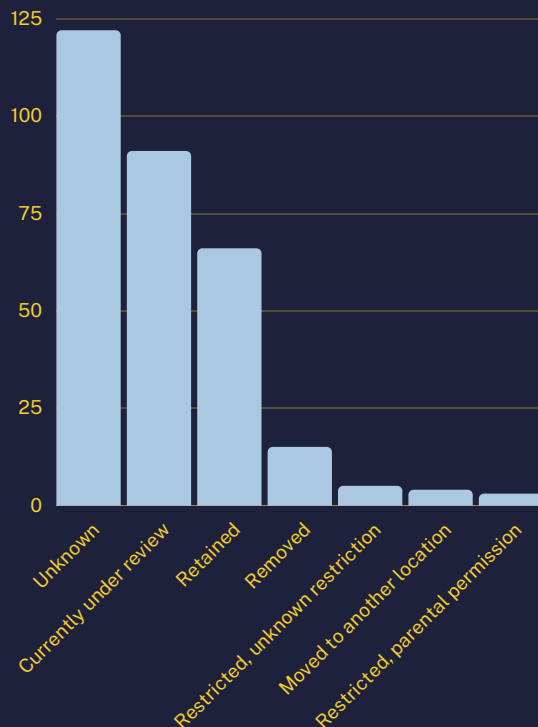


### DISTRICTS WITH MORE THAN 10 CHALLENGES

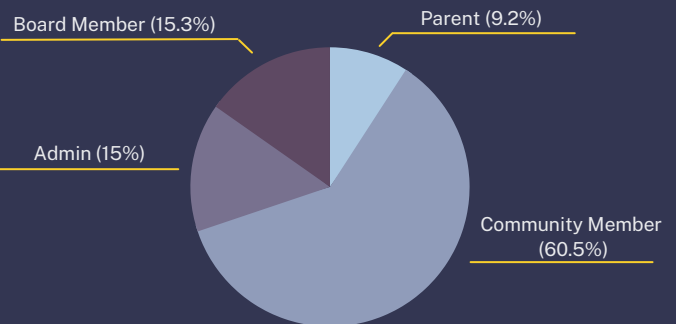
1. Beaufort- 99
2. Horry- 84
3. Spartanburg 1- 44
4. Spartanburg 6- 36
5. Charleston- 21

**AT LEAST 353,019 STUDENTS IMPACTED BY CENSORSHIP**

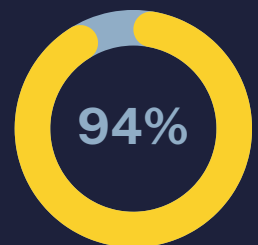
### CHALLENGE RESULTS



### CHALLENGERS



A majority of challenges came from individuals outside of the school community, bringing lists from sites like BookLooks, and did not follow formal procedures.



94% of challenges did **NOT** follow the district's formal challenge procedure.

Librarians, educators, and community members reported challenges via the SCASL webpage throughout 2022. Those submissions, local media articles, and school board reports were used to compile an Index of Censorship. Important trends and statistics from the index were used to create this report. This is likely only a snapshot of challenges across the state. ALA surveys estimate that 82-97% of book challenges remain unreported and receive no media.

Data Analysis and Report Compiled by: Tamara Cox, Dr. Jenna Spiering, Ian Tyner, Jill Tyner  
To report a challenge in your school library visit:  
[scasl.net/intellectual-freedom-committee](https://scasl.net/intellectual-freedom-committee)

**64%**

TITLES TARGETED IN MORE THAN ONE DISTRICT